

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-4, 6-13, 17-23, 25-32, 34-36, 38, and 40 are pending in the application, with claims 1, 10, 20, 28, and 35 being independent. The examiner is thanked for indicating that claims **5, 8, 16, 24, 33, 34, and 39** would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant amends **independent claims 1, 10, 20, 28, and 35** to recite features formerly recited in allowable dependent claims and their intervening claims 5, 14-16, 24, 33, 37 and 39 respectively. Applicant cancels Claims 5, 14-16, 24, 33, 37, and 39 without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer of the subject matter. Therefore, it is believed that all pending claims are in condition for allowance.

Allowable Subject Matter

Dependent claims 5, 8, 16, 24, 33, 34, and 39 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but the Examiner indicated that the claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that these claims are allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant appreciates the Examiner's assistance in advancing prosecution of the application.

Applicant amends **independent claims 1, 10, 20, 28, and 35** to recite features formerly recited in allowable dependent claims and their intervening claims 5, 14-16, 24, 33, 37 and 39 respectively. The amendments to independent claims 1, 10, 20, 28, and 35 are purely of form (i.e., dependent format to independent format), and are not to overcome prior art or any other objections. Accordingly, dependent claims 5, 14-16, 24, 33, 37 and 39 are herein cancelled without prejudice.

Applicant respectfully submits that independent Claims 1, 10, 20, 28, and 35 are in allowable form and are in condition for allowance.

Dependent claims 14-15 and 37 are cancelled herein, rendering the rejections over these claims moot.

Dependent claims 2-4 and 6-9 depend from independent claim 1, **dependent claims 11-13 and 17-19** depend from independent claim 10, **dependent claims 21-23 and 25-27** depend from independent claim 20, **dependent claims 29-32 and 34** depend from independent claim 28, and **dependent claims 36-38 and 40** depend from independent claim 35. In response to the rejections against these claims, Applicant respectfully submits that dependent claims 2-4, 6-9, 11-13, 17-19, 21-23, 25-27, 29-32, 34, 36-38 and 40 are allowable by virtue of this dependency as well as for additional features that each recites.

CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, claims 1-4, 6-13, 17-23, 25-32, 34-36, 38, and 40 are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections and an early notice of allowance. If any issue remains unresolved that would prevent allowance of this case, **Applicant requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney to resolve the issue.**

Respectfully submitted,

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